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1989/8. Question of East Timor

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the universally accepted rules on international humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/20 of 8 September 1982, 1983/26 of 6 September 1983, 1984/24 of 29 August 1984 and 1987/13 of 2 September 1987 concerning the situation in East Timor,

Considering the repeated allegations that the people of East Timor continue to be subjected to gross violations of human rights,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General regarding East Timor;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to encourage all parties concerned, that is the administering Power, the Indonesian Government and representatives of the East Timorese people, to co-operate fully in order to achieve a durable solution, taking full account of the rights and wishes of the people of East Timor;

3. Takes note of the letter from Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, dated 6 February 1989 (A/AC.109/991), addressed to the Secretary-General calling for a referendum in East Timor;

4. Appreciates the Indonesian Government's new policy of openness in East Timor since January 1988;

5. Regrets however that more arrests, torture and summary executions are alleged to have taken place since the end of 1988;

6. Hopes therefore that the Indonesian Government would go a step further to allow representatives of human rights organizations to visit the territory;

7. Recommends to the Commission on Human Rights that it consider, at its forty-sixth session, the human rights situation and fundamental freedoms in East Timor.

37th meeting
31 August 1989

[Adopted by secret ballot by 12 votes to 9, with 3 abstentions. See chap. VII.]